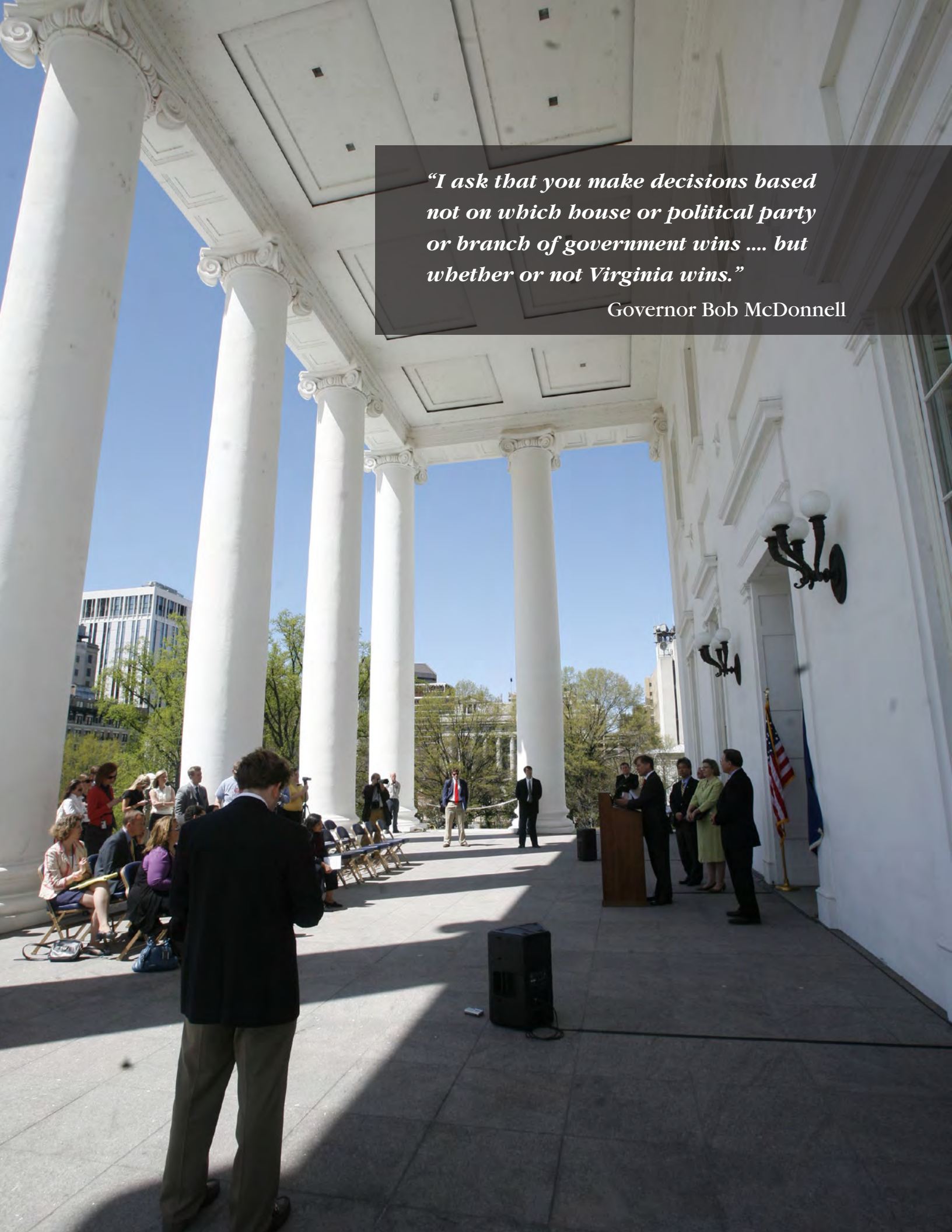


Governor Bob McDonnell

A COMMONWEALTH OF OPPORTUNITY



A photograph of the Virginia State Capitol building, featuring large white columns and a portico. A group of people is gathered on the steps for an outdoor event. Some are seated on folding chairs, while others stand. A man in a dark suit is seen from the back, facing the group. To the right, a man in a dark suit stands at a wooden podium, addressing the group. Several other people in business attire stand nearby. An American flag and a Virginia state flag are visible on the right. A large black speaker sits on the ground in the foreground. The scene is set against a clear blue sky with some greenery and other buildings visible in the background.

*"I ask that you make decisions based
not on which house or political party
or branch of government wins ... but
whether or not Virginia wins."*

Governor Bob McDonnell

Table of Contents



About Bob McDonnell	2
Key Bio Points	3
What They're Saying about Governor McDonnell	5
The McDonnell Administration: A Record of Results	9
The McDonnell Administration: "By the Numbers"	14
Building a Commonwealth of Opportunity: In the News	17
Virginia is Growing Strong Again	35
The Governor's Inaugural Address	38



About Governor Bob McDonnell



Bob McDonnell was sworn in as the 71st governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia on January 16, 2010. In his campaign for the office he received nearly 59% of the vote, and the most votes of any candidate for governor in Virginia history.

As Virginia's Chief Executive, he has built a record of results.

He reduced state spending to 2006 levels by cutting \$6 billion out of two budgets, and defeating attempts to levy a \$2 billion increase in the state income tax. The governor has focused on job-creation and economic development and has enacted bold new policies to help spur economic growth in the Commonwealth. Since February 2010, the state unemployment rate has fallen from 7.2% to 5.6%, the lowest unemployment rate in Virginia in over three years.

The governor's 2011 transportation package passed the General Assembly with broad bipartisan support. It creates a framework to put nearly \$4 billion into transportation over just the next three years and is the largest investment made in Virginia's roads, bridges and transit in a generation. Also in the 2011 session, the governor was successful in moving forward his bold higher education plan that creates the pathway to 100,000 more degrees being awarded in the Commonwealth over the next 15 years. The plan will make college more affordable and accessible for Virginia students. McDonnell has also led on major education reforms to bring more charter schools to the Commonwealth and expand virtual learning programs.

During the 2012 legislative session, working with the General Assembly, the Governor crafted a new biennial budget for the Commonwealth that prioritizes state spending on the core functions of government, and on policies most directly tied to job creation and economic development, while not raising

taxes. It includes the greatest state funding of the Virginia Retirement System in history as well as significant new resources for higher education and K-12. The Governor's 2012 legislative agenda built on the successes of prior years, focusing on getting Virginians back to work and getting Virginia's economy back on track. 88% of his proposals were passed into law.

***"The inherent dignity of a good day's work
in a worthwhile pursuit strengthens the soul,
supports the family, and reduces dependence
on government."***

Governor Bob McDonnell

The governor has dedicated his life to public service. He served 21 years in the U.S. Army, both active duty and reserve, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1997. Upon graduating from law school in 1989 he served as a Virginia Beach prosecutor. McDonnell was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1991 and served 14 years representing Virginia Beach. He was elected as the 44th attorney general of Virginia in 2005. As attorney general, McDonnell kept all seven of his campaign promises and successfully passed 92 of his 105 legislative proposals, with strong bipartisan support.

McDonnell was raised in Fairfax County. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame (BBA), Boston University (MSBA) and Regent University (JD and MA). He and his wife Maureen have been married for 35 years. They have 5 children, ages 19-30. Their oldest daughter, Jeanine, served in the U.S. Army, including a tour of duty in Baghdad, Iraq in 2005-2006.



Key Bio Points

- Received the most votes of any candidate for governor in Virginia history
- Closed two budget shortfalls of \$1.8 billion and \$4.2 billion without raising taxes
- Reduced state spending to 2007 levels
- McDonnell's transportation package put the most new funding into Virginia roads, rail and transit in a generation
- Married 35 years to Maureen McDonnell
- Father of 5 children
- Oldest daughter, Jeanine, was Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and is an Iraq War veteran
- McDonnell served 21 years in the U.S. Army, both on active duty and reserves
- Retired as a Lt. Colonel
- Has a master's degree in business administration and public policy, as well as a law degree
- Worked for a Fortune 500 company
- Is a former prosecutor
- Served 14 years in the Virginia House of Delegates, serving as Chairman of the powerful Courts of Justice Committee and Assistant Majority Leader
- As attorney general, 92 of his 105 legislative proposals were passed into law



A photograph of Governor Bob McDonnell, a man with brown hair wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and blue patterned tie. He is shown in profile, facing right, and is speaking into a cluster of microphones held by reporters. The microphones have various station logos, including 'NBC 29 WYR-TV', 'CBS 6', and '103.5'. In the background, another man in a suit and glasses is partially visible. The scene appears to be a press conference or a media scrum.

“The circumstances of our time demand that we reconsider and restore the proper, limited role of government at every level.”

Governor Bob McDonnell

What They're Saying about Governor McDonnell



"His record, from cutting spending to stabilizing higher-education funding, is about balance more than partisanship — and it's worked."

National Review, October 17, 2011

"Though a solid conservative, he (McDonnell) works well with Democrats, who control the state Senate. His last budget passed unanimously, as did his education reform bill. Since he took office, his state went from a \$4 billion deficit to a surplus of \$545 million."

*Noemie Emery,
The Washington Examiner, Sept 27, 2011*

"McDonnell recently got a higher education reform bill through the legislature (again, unanimously) and even got substantial Democratic support for the passage of a \$4 billion highway bill."

The Weekly Standard, September 26, 2011

"....the poster child for fiscal conservatism since balancing Virginia's \$4.2B budget deficit."

The Hotline on Call October 8, 2010

"....the conservative governor worked with Virginia's Democratic Senate and Republican House to roll back the clock four years, returning state spending levels to those of 2006."

CBN, January 3, 2011

Here in Virginia, a purple state carried by Pres. Barack Obama in 2008, Gov. **Bob McDonnell, a first-term Republican, is a cross-aisle favorite with a 67 percent approval rating.** What gives? Chalk it up to pragmatism....

National Review, October 17, 2011

"Using pragmatic compromises to defuse partisan squabbles, pushing forward economic development initiatives and delivering what is perhaps the toughest

budget ever passed by the General Assembly are marks of political leadership.

Since taking over the governor's office in January, we've seen evidence that Bob McDonnell intends to keep Virginia on solid footing as the best state for business."

*Virginia Business Magazine, editorial,
March 29, 2010*

"Most of the country's states confront budget crunches....Virginia has acted more responsibly than many other states, as the governor's remarks above recount, and he deserves the major share of the credit for that."

*Richmond Times-Dispatch, editorial,
October 14, 2010*

"The Virginia General Assembly adjourned its annual legislative session Sunday evening after adopting a two-year, \$82 billion budget that cuts millions from education, health care and public safety -- curtailing state spending more aggressively than any in generations while fulfilling the new Republican governor's promise not to raise taxes."

Washington Post, March 15, 2010

"Breaking the transportation logjam is a major achievement for McDonnell....

By taking advantage of low interest rates, a construction industry still mired in recession and the state's excellent credit rating,

McDonnell, through some extraordinary politicking, has achieved a major goal that eluded his predecessors. Congratulations, Mr. Governor."

*Lynchburg News & Advance,
February 3, 2011*

"Virginia is the unquestionable brightest star on the American flag when it comes to pro-business. ... Virginia is truly in a class by itself."

*Pollina Corporate
"Top 10 Pro-Business States for 2011" Study*



What They're Saying about Governor McDonnell

"Teresa A. Sullivan, president of the University of Virginia, said **she had been heartened by the bipartisan support for the (higher education) bill and the governor's commitment to following through on his campaign promise to make higher education a priority.**"

*Chronicle of Higher Education,
March 4, 2011*

"Sen. Edd Houck, who put forth a motion to adopt Friday's recommendations in the interim report, comments, **'Some have suggested this is the most significant and comprehensive higher education initiative since the creation of the Community College System 40 years ago.'**"

WHSV-Harrisonburg, December 3, 2010

"State Sen. Charles J. Colgan Sr. is one of the Prince William area's most famous Democrats, but he had lots of good things to say about a prominent Republican on Thursday. That was Gov. Robert F. 'Bob' McDonnell. Colgan, chairman of the budget-writing Senate Finance Committee, told a gathering of the region's chambers of commerce that **McDonnell was instrumental in helping budget negotiators reach consensus when they had to make \$4 billion in cuts to state programs.** 'He presented a very cooperative atmosphere,' Colgan told the crowd at the Montclair Country Club."

InsideNova, April 2, 2010

"**Bob McDonnell won the governorship in the most second most impressive gubernatorial landslide since the rise of competitive elections.** The GOP ticket swept the three statewide offices. Republicans also widened their margin in the House of Delegates. Wins in Northern Virginia proved particularly impressive."

*Richmond Times-Dispatch, editorial,
December 28, 2009*

"....**An audit of the Virginia Department of Transportation ordered by Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R) has unearthed buckets of cash -- \$1 billion or more --** sitting in the department's accounts and ready to be spent on badly needed maintenance and construction projects. The money should provide a badly needed shot in the arm both for the commonwealth's ailing road system and for its shaky economy.... **Give Mr. McDonnell credit for good instincts as a steward of state funds.**"

*The Washington Post,
editorial September 26, 2010*

"**From his first day in office, Mr. McDonnell took a tax increase off the table because he says "it will injure our economy, slow the recovery, and cost us jobs."** His strategy to cut spending across most categories stands in contrast to Washington's, where everything except defense gets branded as "stimulus" to get more money. The feds could do worse than employ the Virginia strategy to close its deficit chasm—and they almost certainly will."

*The Wall Street Journal,
editorial August 24, 2010*

"**In Virginia, Governor Bob McDonnell has been busy.** In office for only six months, the governor's office announced that McDonnell has "defeated former governor Tim Kaine's proposed \$2 billion increase in the state income tax, kept existing car tax relief in place and brought Democrats and Republicans together to close the shortfall through spending reductions, and without a single tax increase." According to government figures, **Virginia's state budget ended the 2010 fiscal year on June 30 with a surplus of about \$220 million, which is an amazing turnaround in half a year.**"

*Cal Thomas national column,
July 16, 2010*



“....He successfully navigated that minefield of a \$4.2 billion shortfall — without raising taxes.If remediation of the budget had been the administration's lone achievement, these first 100 days would have been worthy of note. But Mr. McDonnell realized three other goals — creating new jobs for Virginians (particularly in recession-wracked locales such as Danville, Martinsville and the Southwest coalfields), advancing his educational reform agenda (charter schools) and placing the state first in line to reap the benefits of off-shore energy production....**On those issues important to all Virginians — taxation, jobs, schools — the man did not disappoint. Priorities were set and addressed. Virginians, we hope, can anticipate more of the same in days to come.**”

Harrisonburg Daily News Record/Winchester Star, “The First 100 Days” editorial, May 1, 2010

“An unambiguous message is emanating from the Old Dominion State: Principled, well-executed conservative governance works.”

Townhall.Com June 30, 2011

“VIRGINIA GOV. Robert F. McDonnell (R) began the second half of his term outlining an expansive agenda to remake public education. He is on solid ground in wanting to give parents more choices, improve teacher quality and keep students in school longer. **His willingness to take on entrenched interests should be applauded.....**”

Washington Post, January 15, 2012

“When he was running for governor, Bob McDonnell pledged to have the fastest, fairest process ever in Virginia for restoring felons' voting rights.

To his credit as governor, he is on track to make good on his campaign promise.”

Roanoke Times, January 16, 2012

United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan: “...I agree with so much of what the governor says. I just want to say that **he's providing great leadership not just for the children of Virginia but his voice is starting to impact and influence the education debate nationally**, so I'm lucky to have him as a partner in this work.”

WRVA, February 4, 2011

Dr. Michael Rao, President of Virginia Commonwealth University: “At a time when many state governments have reversed support for higher education, it is enormously encouraging to see Virginia moving in a positive and optimistic direction. **The \$200 million in new funding for Virginia's higher education system proposed by Gov. Bob McDonnell will have a substantive benefit** by helping to make a college education more affordable and accessible for Virginia students.”

Richmond Times-Dispatch, January 3, 2012

“...in times of economic necessity, **the role of government should be to focus on core functions** — jobs, education, transportation, fixing the retirement system and running a more efficient government — **and the governor has done that.**”

Daily Press, January 14, 2012

Former Congressman Arthur Davis (D-Ala.): **“McDonnell and Warner have also practiced a political style that has rewarded them** — a pragmatic treatment of government as a management problem rather than an ideological crusade.”

Politico, December 31, 2011





“Much of the marvelous story of America was written in Virginia. And much of her future will be written here as well.”

Governor Bob McDonnell

The McDonnell Administration: A Record of Results



- In November 2009, Bob McDonnell received 59% of the vote in the Virginia gubernatorial race, and the most votes of any candidate for governor in Virginia history
- He was Inaugurated on January 16, 2010

First Year in Office

- Governor McDonnell immediately inherited two budget shortfalls
- The first was \$1.8 billion in the concluding FY 2010 budget
- Through holding the line on discretionary spending, putting in place a hiring freeze in state government, making conservative revenue estimates and incentivizing state employees to save taxpayer dollars, the governor turned that shortfall into a \$403 million surplus in just 6 months
- The second shortfall was an even larger \$4.2 billion in the FY 2011/2012 budget introduced by outgoing Governor Tim Kaine
- No governor had ever taken office confronting a budget shortfall of this size
- The governor closed the historic \$4.2 billion budget shortfall that he inherited for FY 2011/2012 through spending reductions, not tax hikes
- The \$2.3 billion in budget recommendations made by the governor was five times greater than any first-session Virginia governor has ever put forward
- The need for such a large amount of budget recommendations from a first-session governor resulted from outgoing Governor Tim Kaine sending down the FY 2011/2012 budget with a \$2 billion income tax hike included to close the shortfall
- It would have been the biggest tax hike in Virginia history
- Governor McDonnell brought Democrats and Republicans together to reject Kaine's tax hike
- The budget was passed without a tax increase and with car tax relief in place
- It reduced state spending to 2006 levels
- The governor had the most successful first legislative session of any Virginia governor in modern history





The McDonnell Administration: A Record of Results

- His pension reform, requiring new state employees to contribute to their own retirements for the first time in a generation, will save Virginia \$3 billion over the next 10 years
- The governor's hiring freeze in state government is saving \$20 million a year
- 80% of Governor McDonnell's legislative proposals passed the General Assembly in his first session as Virginia's Chief Executive
- Additionally, the General Assembly approved 92% of his 213 amendments to the budget and previously passed legislation
- The governor implemented significant education reform through his "Opportunity to Learn" legislation which opened Virginia to new, high-quality charter schools
- The governor passed an aggressive economic development package to grow jobs and provide economic incentives for new investments in Virginia
- Virginia was named "the most pro-business state in America" in August 2010 by the Pollina Corporation and one of the top two states to in which to do business by CNBC
- Microsoft announced the largest economic investment in the history of Southern Virginia
- Fortune 100 company Northrop Grumman chose Fairfax for their new corporate headquarters, moving to the Commonwealth from California
- The governor also launched major commissions and initiatives on higher education, job creation, government reform, national security and military installations, health reform and housing
- He ordered an independent performance and financial audit of Virginia's Department of Transportation which uncovered \$1.5 billion available for transportation projects that was previously unspent





Second Year in Office

- The governor's comprehensive transportation funding package passed the General Assembly with broad bipartisan support
- The package creates the framework to put nearly \$4 billion into transportation over the next three years
- It is the biggest investment in transportation in Virginia since 1986
- The governor's "Top Jobs" higher education reform act also received broad bipartisan support in the General Assembly
- The act creates the pathway to 100,000 more degrees being awarded in the Commonwealth over the next 15 years
- Speaking about the governor's higher education efforts, Democratic State Senator Edd Houck said, "Some have suggested this is the most significant and comprehensive higher education initiative since the creation of the Community College System 40 years ago."
- The governor also was successful in gaining legislative approval for his efforts to eliminate various state boards and commissions and make state government smaller and more efficient
- 92% of the governor's 2011 legislative agenda was passed by the Republican-majority House of Delegates and Democratic-majority State Senate
- In June, CNBC named Virginia "America's Top State for Business" for 2011
- CNBC reported that the Commonwealth received the highest point total in the history of their rankings.
- In August, Pollina Corporate named Virginia as the "Most Pro-Business State in the Nation" for 2011
- In ranking Virginia #1, Pollina wrote, "Virginia is the unquestionable brightest star on the American flag when it comes to being pro-business.....Virginia is truly in a class by itself."






The McDonnell Administration: A Record of Results

Third Year in Office (To Date)

- Governor McDonnell's FY 2013/2014 budget focused spending on the core functions on government
- Building on his "Top Jobs" higher education reform act, the budget allocated \$230 million per year in new funding to make college degrees more affordable for students and advance toward the governor's goal of having 100,000 more Virginians earn degrees in the next 15 years
- The governor's K-12 students education reform agenda raised third grade reading standards for children, increased incentives for schools and teachers, and expanded educational options through tuition tax credits, charter schools, and virtual schools, and funding for critical education and training programs
- Governor McDonnell further strengthened the long-term solvency of the Virginia Retirement System through initiatives to permanently and dramatically reform the long-term unfunded liabilities of the system, and a budget proposal to inject the largest employer contribution to VRS in history
- He reduced the anticipated unfunded liability to the Virginia State Retirement system by \$9 billion by 2031
- Additionally, the governor's jobs and economic development agenda increased access to capital for small businesses and implements greater coordination among economic development entities
- 88% of the governor's 2012 legislative agenda was passed by the Virginia General Assembly
- Virginia's unemployment fell to 5.6% in March, the lowest unemployment rate in Virginia in over three years. As of March 2012 the state unemployment rate had fallen 23% since the Governor took office in January 2010
- Agricultural exports from Virginia reached an all-time high, with the Commonwealth exporting a record \$2.35 billion in agricultural products
- Cattle will be exported directly to Canada for the first time in Virginia history and the first new shipments of soybeans from Perdue Agribusiness' deep water export facility in Chesapeake arrived in China, with an estimated value of \$25 million per shipload
- The Chesapeake Bay blue crab population reached a 20 year high with a population reaching 764 million crabs, a 66% increase above the 2011 level
- Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Inc. announced plans to establish a production facility in Isle of Wight bringing 800 new jobs to the area
- Amazon.com made the largest jobs announcement in Virginia since 2004 when they announced the company's plans to open two fulfillment centers in Virginia, investing a total of \$135 million and creating more than 1,350 jobs

The image features two flags flying against a clear blue sky. The top flag is the United States flag, with its stars and stripes clearly visible. Below it is the flag of the Commonwealth of Virginia, which is dark blue with a central circular seal. The seal depicts a Native American figure holding a bow and arrow, with a crest above showing an arm holding a sword. The text of the quote is overlaid on a semi-transparent blue rectangular box that covers the middle portion of the American flag.

*“Government should have this clear goal:
Where opportunity is absent, we must create it.
Where opportunity is limited, we must expand
it. Where opportunity is unequal, we must make
it open to everyone.”*

Governor Bob McDonnell



The McDonnell Administration: "By the Numbers"

- 1:** Virginia's Ranking in CNBC and Pollina Corporate's Studies of Top States for Business in 2011
- 17.2:** Percent Increase in February 2012 Revenue Collections
- 19:** Previously Closed Rest Stops Reopened by Governor McDonnell
- 27:** Governors Joining Governor McDonnell in Request for Expedited Review of Federal Healthcare Lawsuits
- 40:** New Jobs Created by Guardian Industries in City of Galax
- 70:** MPH. New Speed Limit on Broad Stretches of Virginia Interstates
- 80:** Percent of Governor's Legislative Proposals Passed by General Assembly in 2010
- 88:** Percent of Governor's Legislative Proposals Passed by General Assembly in 2012
- 92:** Percent of Governor's Legislative Proposals Passed by General Assembly in 2011
- 177:** Jobs Created in Lynchburg when J. Crew Group, Inc. Expanded Its Distribution Center
- 240:** Jobs Created in Pulaski County when Phoenix Packaging Operations Chose Virginia over Five Other States for the Site of Its First Manufacturing Facility in the United States
- 768:** Economic Development Projects Launched in Virginia since Inauguration Day
- 800:** Jobs Created in Isle of Wight County When Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Establishes Production and Distribution Facility
- 900:** Projects Statewide Estimated to be Impacted by Governor's Transportation Plan
- 1,000:** Jobs Added by Capital One When They Expanded in Virginia
- 1,318:** Words in Governor McDonnell's 2010 Republican Response to the State of the Union
- 2006:** Year Virginia's State Spending Level Returned to Following McDonnell's Budget Cuts
- 8,000:** Attendees at McDonnell's Gubernatorial Inauguration
- 100,000:** Additional Higher Education Degrees to be Awarded Over Next 15 Years in the Commonwealth
- 114,101:** Acres of Land Conserved to Date Under the McDonnell Administration
- 269,000:** Potholes Patched During 2010 and 2011 "Pothole Blitzes"
- \$35.7 Million:** Increased Amount in Governor's Opportunity Fund to Attract Job Creating Businesses to Virginia
- \$200 Million:** New Higher Education Funding in the FY2013/2014 Budget
- \$403 Million:** Amount of FY 2010 Budget Surplus
- \$544.5 Million:** Amount of FY 2011 Budget Surplus
- 764 Million :** Blue crabs in the Chesapeake Bay; a 20-Year High
- \$2.35 Billion:** Value of Record Amount of Agriculture Exports from Virginia in 2011
- \$4 Billion:** In New Funding for Transportation in Virginia Over the Next Three Years - Largest Investment in a Generation


AND THE GRAND FINALE:

- \$6 Billion:** Total Amount of Budget Shortfalls Inherited by Governor McDonnell
- 0:** Taxes Increased to Close the Shortfalls

*“Our administration will demand excellence,
reward performance, provide choices and
celebrate achievement.”*

Governor Bob McDonnell





“The people of Virginia are strong in times of trouble; giving in times of need; resilient in the face of adversity; and, committed to seizing the opportunities before them.”

Governor Bob McDonnell



THE MCDONNELL ADMINISTRATION: IN THE NEWS

Getting Virginia Moving Again	18
Keeping Virginians Safe and Secure	21
Conservative, Responsible Leadership on Virginia's Budget	23
Ensuring "The Opportunity to Learn" for All Virginians	25
Making Virginia the Energy Capitol of the East Coast	29
Preserving Virginia's Natural Wonders	31
Strengthening and Reforming the Virginia Retirement System	33



GETTING VIRGINIA MOVING AGAIN

\$4 Billion for Transportation: The Most Funding in a Generation

The plan is expected to inject \$4 billion into state transportation projects over three years. Some 900 projects have been identified to receive the funds, including light rail in Hampton Roads, a new tube for the Midtown Tunnel, and widening Dominion Boulevard in Chesapeake and Lynnhaven Parkway in Virginia Beach.

The bill also would create a transportation infrastructure bank, allowing the state to issue up to \$1.1 billion in GARVEE bonds and use toll credits for a state match. The state also would be able to accelerate the sales of bonds from 2007 transportation legislation to \$600 million a year and allow up to \$1.8 billion in bonds during the remainder of McDonnell's administration.

The bill also would increase the availability of revenue sharing, eliminating the \$1 million cap per project and \$50 million program maximum, according to the release.

Virginian-Pilot, January 24, 2011



His transportation proposal represents the largest infusion of funds into the state's cash-strapped highway coffers in more than two decades - and will help fund 900 projects.

Washington Post, March 1, 2011

Breaking the transportation logjam is a major achievement for McDonnell....

By taking advantage of low interest rates, a construction industry still mired in recession and the state's excellent credit rating, McDonnell, through some extraordinary politicking, has achieved a major goal that eluded his predecessors.

Congratulations, Mr. Governor.

Lynchburg News & Advance, February 3, 2011



VDOT Audit

The Virginia Department of Transportation is sitting on \$1 billion in reserve funds that could be used for new construction and maintenance, an audit ordered by Gov. Bob McDonnell has found.

“That is unacceptable,” McDonnell told a news conference today. “Money has been sitting in the state’s wallet, while Virginians have been sitting in traffic.”

Because of the audit, \$800 million to \$900 million of maintenance and construction contracts will be awarded by Dec. 31, Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton said.

Richmond Times-Dispatch, September 23, 2010



The Virginia Department of Transportation left more than \$500 million in maintenance funding unspent last year, even as the agency was reducing its work force and cutting services because of declining revenues, according to an audit commissioned by Gov. Bob McDonnell’s administration.

Based on the audit’s findings, McDonnell said Thursday that VDOT soon can plow \$614 million in unspent maintenance and construction funds into the agency’s six-year road improvements plan. The audit recommends additional steps to steer an additional \$840 million in existing funds to highway projects over the next six years.

The audit concluded that VDOT held too much maintenance and construction funding in reserve during the economic downturn, slowing maintenance and preventing long-delayed road projects from moving forward. The Republican governor blamed the situation on “bad management decisions” made during the tenure of his predecessor, Democrat Tim Kaine.

Roanoke Times, September 24, 2010





Building a Commonwealth of Opportunity: In the News

Rest Areas

Fulfilling a top campaign pledge of the state's new Republican governor, Virginia's Commonwealth Transportation Board has voted to reopen 19 Interstate rest stops closed last year to save \$9 million and help bridge a \$4.2 billion deficit.

Gov. Bob McDonnell, who was sworn in Saturday to replace Democrat Tim Kaine, told the Commonwealth Transportation Board that "inmate labor and private contributions would help manage the costs of reopening the rest stops," the Associated Press writes.

USA Today, January 20, 2010



Virginia Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R) announced Wednesday that the state will reopen 19 highway rest stops that were shuttered this summer because of budget cuts.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board's unanimous vote Wednesday makes good on a campaign pledge to reopen the rest stops closed by McDonnell's predecessor, Timothy M. Kaine (D).

Four of the rest stops will reopen by Feb. 17. Eight more will be reopened by March 17, and the final seven by April 17.

The rest stops will be reopened using private contributions through an "adopt a rest stop" program and \$3 million from the state's maintenance reserve fund. The state will also employ the labor of nonviolent prison inmates.

"There are very few things I have heard more about in the last six months that have been a source of discontent and inconvenience to the citizens than not being able to access those rest stops," McDonnell told reporters after the board's meeting. "For travelers to come to Virginia and see tape across the entrance to the rest stop and a big 'closed' sign, it's a bigger sign that Virginia is closed for business."

Washington Post, January 21, 2010





KEEPING VIRGINIANS SAFE AND SECURE

Operation SOAR

Fifteen foreign-born sex criminals living in Virginia and the District of Columbia who previously had avoided deportation were arrested this week in a statewide sweep and soon will be deported, authorities announced yesterday.

The arrests are part of a continuing crackdown in Virginia to deport immigrants -- some of whom are here legally -- who have committed sex crimes. The 13 immigrants arrested in Virginia and two in the District of Columbia had convictions for sex offenses that included sexual battery of a minor, aggravated sexual battery of a child and carnal knowledge of a teenager.

"I think it's noteworthy that most of those offenders have committed those crimes within the last year or two," Gov. Bob McDonnell said during a news conference at the state Capitol to announce the arrests. "And so these are people that are clear and present [and] current dangers to the citizens of Virginia."

Richmond Times-Dispatch, October 9, 2010



287g

Gov. Bob McDonnell is asking the federal government to deputize Virginia's state troopers to enforce federal immigration law.

In a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, McDonnell formally seeks what is known as a 287(g) agreement.

The agreements with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials permit participating state and local police to question and detain illegal immigrants suspected in crimes.

McDonnell said reaching an agreement for the state police would improve public safety in Virginia while providing help to undermanned federal immigration agencies.

AP, August 12, 2010





Building a Commonwealth of Opportunity: In the News

Gov. Bob McDonnell said yesterday that he envisions any Virginia State Police troopers given federal immigration enforcement powers would use them to address those “who are engaged in major drug offenses or violent offenses such as murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery and kidnapping, as well as DUI offenses.”

He made the distinction in a formal request sent this week to the Department of Homeland Security, asking for an agreement to authorize some Virginia State Police troopers to perform functions of federal immigration officers.

The letter, dated Aug. 10 to Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, comes after months of conversations on the subject between McDonnell’s administration and federal authorities.

The governor wants Homeland Security to enter into a so-called 287g agreement with the state, a pact that at least seven jurisdictions in Virginia already have in some form. The agreement is named for a section of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

“The [memorandum of understanding] would include how participating State Police personnel will be nominated, trained, authorized and supervised in performing the immigration enforcement functions specified in the agreement,” McDonnell wrote.

Richmond Times-Dispatch, August 13, 2010





CONSERVATIVE, RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP ON VIRGINIA'S BUDGET

Governor McDonnell's FY2013/2014 Budget

Gov. Bob McDonnell unveiled a two-year state budget plan Monday that directs new revenue toward his top policy priorities and restrains spending growth in public schools and health care.

McDonnell's \$84.9 billion spending plan, which would take effect July 1, charts the course for the second half of his term and frames the debate for the General Assembly session that begins next month. In a speech to the legislature's key money committees, McDonnell said his budget targets spending toward core government functions and holds the line on taxes.

"We should not subscribe to the theory that government can only get better if it gets bigger," McDonnell said. "I believe that government must get more focused and effective."

McDonnell's plan would increase spending for state colleges, transportation and economic development, and would pump cash into underfunded state employee and teacher pension plans, addressing what he described as "specific big problems" that demand action.

Roanoke Times, December 20, 2011



Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell is praising the last-minute compromise that resulted in the General Assembly's passage of a state budget that he says makes "historic investments" in higher education, reduces unfunded liabilities in the state employee retirement system and "combines accountability and innovation" in K-12 funding. "There are no tax increases in this budget. This is a budget that ensures Virginia's state government will live within its means, like our families and businesses do every day," McDonnell said.

Fairfax News, April 19, 2012



2010 and 2011 Surpluses

Gov. Bob McDonnell is confirming this morning that Virginia closed the most recent spending cycle with \$403.2 million in leftover funds.

McDonnell, in a report to the General Assembly money committees, says most of the money is spoken for. But he credited the politically divided legislature and his Democratic predecessor with taking steps to achieve the announced savings through the continuing economic downturn.

"This modest surplus and fiscal turnaround was achieved by two administrations, two houses of the General Assembly and two political parties," said McDonnell.

McDonnell today is announcing that state agencies scraped together \$174.7 million in unspent funds. Added to the \$228.5 million in savings announced earlier this summer, the total in unspent cash is \$403.2 million.

Richmond Times-Dispatch, August 20, 2010

Gov. Bob McDonnell announced today that the commonwealth has a \$544.8 million dollar budget surplus for the past fiscal year due to a combination of better than expected revenue and savings and savings from state agencies.

"This is a result of bipartisan cooperation here in Richmond, where we have toned down the rhetoric, and made the tough decisions through conservative budgeting and fiscal discipline," McDonnell told committee members.

The Daily Press, August 18, 2011

Reduced Spending

...He points to cutting \$4 billion from the state budget in his first legislative session last year, paring back spending to 2006 levels and not raising taxes.

Washington Post, March 1, 2011

However, raising taxes wasn't an option for McDonnell.... Instead, the conservative governor worked with Virginia's Democratic Senate and Republican House to roll back the clock four years, returning state spending levels to those of 2006.

CBN, January 3, 2011



ENSURING “THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN” FOR ALL VIRGINIANS

Higher Education

Gov. Bob McDonnell has consistently favored more funding for higher education. This 2012-2014 budget includes more money for colleges and universities — and McDonnell has asked college presidents to keep those tuition costs down. It is a priority, whether our economy is shaky or solid. Young people must have the opportunity to further their education. Our swiftly changing workplace environment requires education more so than ever before.

We are glad to see that McDonnell and the General Assembly have begun to put a once-excellent system back on track.

Our students and families deserve nothing less.

Staunton News Leader, April 27, 2012

Gov. Bob McDonnell on Wednesday... [announced] a funding package that will include \$100 million per year for higher education.

The announcement builds off of Mr. McDonnell’s “Top Jobs” legislation in 2011 that provided the same amount, with the ultimate goal of having 100,000 more Virginians receive degrees over the next 15 years.

“The overall theme here is the state’s got to do more,” he said at a Wednesday news conference. “I think this sets the foundation now for the next 15 years in higher education.”

The 2011 package also included specific policy incentives for universities to create more degrees in the science, math, engineering and technology (STEM) and health care fields, enhance graduation rates, require more year-round use of facilities, and improve financial aid, among other items.

Washington Times, December 14, 2011





Building a Commonwealth of Opportunity: In the News

The House of Delegates and the Senate have easily passed Gov. Robert F. McDonnell's higher education bill, which is designed to be the first step toward the governor's goal of awarding 100,000 new associate and bachelor's degrees over the next 15 years through financial aid, grants to virtual schools, and other programs.



McDonnell (R) wants to provide a stable funding source for schools so they can avoid the dramatic tuition increases they have had to implement in recent years. Colleges and universities would be provided financial incentives to fulfill education goals, including graduating more students in four years and awarding more degrees in high-demand science and technology fields.

Washington Post, February 7, 2011

Many state governors are proposing deep cuts in higher education this year. But Gov. Robert F. McDonnell, of Virginia, is bucking the trend by pledging to restore some of the cutbacks that public colleges have endured during the economic downturn, and proposing a measure that would provide institutions with a fair share of state money in the future.

The plan, which has broad support in the state's General Assembly, is meant to fulfill his goal to increase the number of Virginians with college degrees by 100,000 during the next 15 years, and in particular the number who earn degrees in science and technology.

"These reforms will help us attract new employers to Virginia and better prepare our citizens to fill the jobs that already exist in the state today," Mr. McDonnell, a Republican, said... The cost of the legislation... is an investment in the state's economic future, the governor said, arguing that higher education returns more tax revenue to the state than it costs.

.... Teresa A. Sullivan, president of the University of Virginia, said she had been heartened by the bipartisan support for the bill and the governor's commitment to following through on his campaign promise to make higher education a priority.

Chronicle of Higher Education, March 4, 2011

Sen. Edd Houck, who put forth a motion to adopt Friday's recommendations in the interim report, comments, "Some have suggested this is the most significant and comprehensive higher education initiative since the creation of the Community College System 40 years ago."

WHSVHarrisonburg, December 3, 2010



"A child's educational opportunity should be determined by her intellect and work ethic, not by her zip code."

Governor Bob McDonnell



Building a Commonwealth of Opportunity: In the News

K-12 Education

Mr. McDonnell laid out his legislative priorities Monday at a news conference in Richmond, stressing that in order for Virginia to compete with other states in job creation and the economy, the state must provide adequate funding for education. Mr. McDonnell has proposed adding \$438 million in new K-12 funding to his two-year budget...

"I remember the old saying when I was growing up ... 'If you want a good job, you've got to have a good education,' " he said, surrounded by students and legislators.

Mr. McDonnell, a fierce advocate of charter schools and school choice, is also pushing a proposal that would provide tax credits to companies that contribute to scholarships for low-income students to help them attend the school of their choice.

Washington Times, January 9, 2012

Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R) unveiled an ambitious proposal Wednesday to expand the number of charter schools in Virginia as a way to offer a publicly funded, privately run education alternative.

McDonnell also said he wants to create virtual schools in which students can learn outside traditional classrooms and laboratory schools that would benefit from partnerships with Virginia colleges and universities.

The recently inaugurated governor has declared charter schools a top priority in his first legislative session. He has long praised President Obama for his support of charters, and he recently hired a nationally known charter advocate as his education secretary.

"Charter schools aren't a silver bullet," McDonnell said at a news conference on Capitol Square, where he was joined by several lawmakers, former governor L. Douglas Wilder (D) and a few children. "But they are an important option for parents and for children seeking new options in a public education system."

McDonnell's proposal would make it easier for charter schools to open in a state that has not welcomed them by allowing applicants to circumvent local approval processes.

Washington Post, February 11, 2010

The Virginia Senate on Tuesday passed Gov. Robert F. McDonnell's proposal designed to expand the number of the state's charter schools....

"I applaud the Republicans and Democrats who came together today to help Virginia schoolchildren, especially those who are at-risk and disadvantaged, gain more educational opportunities," McDonnell said in a statement.

McDonnell declared charter schools a top priority in his first legislative session.... Since Virginia began allowing charter schools 12 years ago, only three have opened. A fourth is set to open in Richmond in the fall.

Washington Post, March 10, 2010



MAKING VIRGINIA THE ENERGY CAPITOL OF THE EAST COAST

An “All the Above” Energy Plan

Gov. Bob McDonnell is promoting legislation that he says will help Virginia become the “energy capital of the East Coast.”

McDonnell will add his signature today to 13 pieces of energy-related legislation. The legislation promotes development of the state’s energy resources and supports alternative and renewable energy strategies, according to the governor’s office.

McDonnell has promoted an “all-of-the-above” approach to energy development. That includes fossil fuel development such as coal and renewable sources of energy such as wind and solar power.

Association Press, April 17, 2012

A new international partnership of energy companies announced plans Wednesday to build a facility in Northampton County where offshore wind turbines can be tested on solid ground....

Supporters of the project, including Gov. Bob McDonnell, the Virginia Port Authority and others, say it could spur a wave of economic development projects on the Eastern Shore and in Hampton Roads, including increased port activity, manufacturing and assembly centers and research facilities dedicated to offshore wind.

Daily Press, October 13, 2011



Building a Commonwealth of Opportunity: In the News

Governor's Energy Conference

McDonnell, speaking at the 2nd Annual Governor's Conference on Energy, said the U.S. should follow Virginia's lead and embrace an "all-of-the-above" philosophy of energy development to achieve energy independence and reboot the economy.

"To make this nation energy secure and more independent, we have got to have a comprehensive red, white and blue American energy policy that relies on all of the God-given natural resources that we've got in this country for us to continue to be the great and the free nation that we are," the Republican governor said.

McDonnell, who has made energy a key element of his administration, took aim at federal policies on the subject....

McDonnell repeated his appeal to the Obama administration that it end the moratorium on East Coast offshore oil exploration, which was enacted after the Gulf oil disaster.

Associated Press, October 19, 2011

Virginia's future as a leader in energy production remains linked to indefinitely delayed plans for oil and natural gas drilling miles off the state coastline, Gov. Bob McDonnell said Wednesday at an energy conference he convened.

That exploration "is a part of American's energy future that should go forward," McDonnell said....

The governor's message echoed many of the themes he's previously stressed, including the need to produce more energy in Virginia, a state he said imports nearly one-third of its electricity.

Meeting that demand requires a strategy that relies on traditional fuels, nuclear power, and biological and renewable alternatives such as offshore wind, McDonnell said.

"The best winds in the country anywhere outside of the United States Congress are off the shores of Virginia," McDonnell said, taking a jab at federal officials. "What we've got to do is find a way to harness it in a commercially practicable way."

Virginian-Pilot, October 14, 2010





PRESERVING VIRGINIA'S NATURAL WONDERS

Chesapeake Bay

The Chesapeake Bay's blue crab population is clawing its way back.

The number of blue crabs in the bay has reached 764 million, the most recorded since 1993, according to the 2012 winter dredge survey results announced Thursday...

"The crab population is the highest it has been in the past 20 years, and to see this record production of juveniles is truly remarkable," Gov. Bob McDonnell said in an announcement.

"Those crabs will grow over the summer, and many will reach market size in the fall. Those that aren't harvested and brought to the dinner table will become the building blocks for future generations of crabs."

Richmond Times-Dispatch, April 20, 2012

Virginia's revised plan to clean up the Chesapeake Bay has been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as part of a broader strategy to reduce the flow of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment into the bay.

The overarching plan -- encompassing a watershed that covers 64,000 square miles in six states and Washington, D.C. -- is an ambitious effort to restore a waterway harmed by pollutants.

Shawn Garvin, an EPA regional administrator, described it as "by far, the most comprehensive and rigorous road map to restoration that we've ever had."

...In a statement, Gov. Bob McDonnell called the revised version "a stringent but workable plan that demonstrates Virginia's commitment to cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay while providing for continued economic growth in the Commonwealth."

Virginian-Pilot, December 30, 2010

...Virginia is poised to try a new approach to an old problem: farm pollution.

A bill approved by the House and Senate and favored by Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell will introduce a new tool, called





Building a Commonwealth of Opportunity: In the News

resource management plans, in the fight to restore the Bay without overregulating agriculture, one of the state's richest industries.

Essentially, the plans will be voluntary assessments of what each of the state's 47,000 farms is doing to control pollutants - fertilizer runoff, eroding soils, animal wastes - and what each can do better to curb them.

If a farmer crafts such a plan, implements it, and gets it certified as legitimate and working, that farmer would be deemed in compliance with any rules coming from Richmond or Washington regarding the new Bay cleanup initiative, known as a "pollution diet" or a TMDL.

Virginian-Pilot, February 26, 2011

Land Conservation

A 640-acre Middlesex County farm with about seven miles of frontage on the lower Rappahannock River has been preserved through a conservation easement, Gov. Bob McDonnell says.... According to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, the tract contains some of the most highly productive farmland in the region, and the easement will ensure that the farm will continue on. The easement protects the property's prime soils and shoreline by restricting future development.

Free Lance-Star, April 24, 2012

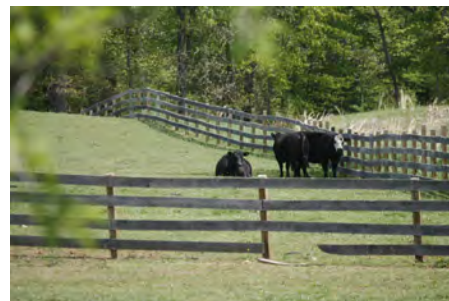
The Nature Conservancy has placed 13,350 acres of land in Dragon Run Swamp on the Middle Peninsula in a conservation easement, the largest in Virginia history.

Dragon Run is considered one of the most ecologically important areas in the Chesapeake Bay region. Most of it is in Middlesex County and drains into the Piankatank River.

Linda Crowe, director of land protection for the Nature Conservancy, said the acreage is the same size as Manhattan Island. "This is quite special," she said.

Gov. Bob McDonnell hailed the easement, which protects the land from development. He said he has pledged to conserve 400,000 acres during his term -- the same amount that was conserved under former Gov. Timothy M. Kaine.

Richmond Times-Dispatch, February 4, 2010





STRENGTHENING AND REFORMING THE VIRGINIA RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Virginia's newly enacted retirement system reforms have won a positive credit rating from one of the country's three rating agencies.

Moody's Investors Service issued the "credit positive" notice on Monday, a week after Gov. Bob McDonnell signed one of two pension reform bills adopted by the General Assembly last month.

The agency said the legislation puts Virginia "on a more sustainable path to fully funding its pension commitments."

Richmond Times-Dispatch, April 16, 2012

Gov. Bob McDonnell already has signed into law sweeping changes to the retirement system, including reduced pension benefits for employees with less than five years of service and an entirely different type of retirement plan for most state and local employees hired after Jan. 1, 2014.

Chief of Staff Martin L. Kent said the legislation — along with a companion bill that requires teachers and local government employees to contribute 5 percent of their salary to retirement — represents "significant needed reforms to our retirement system to assure the long-term solvency of the retirement system."

Richmond Times-Dispatch, April 11, 2012


Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell's proposal to pump \$2.2 billion into the depleted Virginia Retirement System was warmly received by state employees Thursday....

Mr. McDonnell announced that his proposed budget, scheduled to be formally introduced Monday, will include \$2.2 billion in employer contributions for state employee and teacher funds — the largest such figure in history.

"I do not intend to pass this problem on to another administration," Mr. McDonnell, a Republican, told state employees at a town-hall meeting Thursday.

Washington Times, December 15, 2011



A photograph of Governor Bob McDonnell, an older man with grey hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and striped tie. He is smiling and waving his right hand towards a large crowd of people. The crowd is diverse in age and appearance, with many people looking towards him. In the background, there are green stadium bleachers and city buildings under a bright sky. A semi-transparent dark box containing text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

"It is right to help one another. It is right to work together to get results and solve problems. It is right to provide opportunities for all."

Governor Bob McDonnell



Virginia is Growing Strong Again

Op-Ed by Governor Bob McDonnell

Richmond Times-Dispatch

April 29, 2012

When we took office in January 2010, the commonwealth faced major challenges. Virginia was mired in a deep recession that had pushed the state unemployment rate to levels not seen in a generation. Our state government confronted \$6 billion in collective shortfalls. College tuitions had doubled over the previous decade. Transportation needed significant funding; even the rest stops were closed! In short, times were tough. Now, looking back over the past 27 months, we can see that, collectively, we're making progress in addressing those challenges. We are building a "Commonwealth of Opportunity."



Virginia is in the midst of a sustained economic recovery. Yes, it's still early. But early returns are very positive. The state unemployment rate has fallen 23 percent since we took office, from 7.3 percent in January 2010 to 5.6 percent today. That's our lowest unemployment rate in over three years and the lowest in the Southeast, by a long shot.

The bipartisan effort, led by Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling, to get our economy back on track is creating new opportunities all across the state. One-hundred sixty-thousand more Virginians are working today. And the more than 115,000 net new jobs created in the state is the eighth-highest amount in the country. National organizations are taking notice. CNBC and Pollina Corporate have named Virginia the Top State in America for Business. MoneyRates.com just identified Virginia as the best state in which to earn a living.

The private sector is driving this recovery. Less than 15 percent of these new jobs are government positions. Virginia's job creators are innovating, growing and hiring. And Virginia's state government is doing all it can to assist them. We are helping them keep more capital to invest and expand by not raising taxes. We are removing unnecessary regulations and keeping litigation to a minimum. We have taken proactive steps to guard our highly valued Aaa bond rating.



Virginia is Growing Strong Again

This is a bipartisan effort. My first two years in office, with a Democratic Senate and a Republican House, 86 percent of our legislative initiatives passed. This past session, with a Republican General Assembly, 88 percent of our bills were successful. Good ideas are being turned into Virginia public policy, and those policies are getting results.

A year ago we created the framework to put the most new funding into transportation in a generation, nearly \$4 billion for Virginia roads and rail over three years. Last year over \$2 billion in projects were contracted, the largest amount in Virginia history. This influx of new funding is moving forward 900 projects statewide.

A year ago we passed sweeping new legislation to dramatically improve college affordability and accessibility for Virginia students. This session, we put our money where our policy is. We are directing \$230 million in new funding to Virginia's institutions of higher education, reversing a decade-long trend of disinvestment, and driving down tuition increases for Virginia students.

That commitment to education extends to our K-12 system. We are matching significant reform and accountability with new funding to ensure a world-class public education system in every locality. Through this budget we are putting over \$600 million of new funding into Virginia's public schools. That funding is accompanied by new measures to boost student reading, expand charter, virtual and college laboratory schools, and reward our best teachers in order to ensure our students are college- or career-ready.

Innovation and investment don't stop with roads and schools. We've put tremendous new resources into the aggressive selling of Virginia products, and the marketing of Virginia as a business location, to audiences worldwide. It's working. In 2011 we set a new record for state agricultural exports at \$2.35 billion. Our major investment in the Port of Hampton Roads is helping us to bring more Virginia products to new overseas markets. In October, the first ship filled with Virginia soybeans left for China as part of a new export deal. Many more ships have departed since then. Estimated value of each shipload: \$25 million.

Virginia's economy is gaining momentum. More Virginians are working. And in Richmond we're ensuring that, through sound fiscal practices, Virginians are keeping more of what they earn. We've turned two budget shortfalls totaling \$6 billion into back-to-back budget surpluses totaling nearly \$1 billion, without raising taxes. We've reduced the anticipated unfunded liability in our state pension system by \$9 billion by 2031.

Virginia is growing strong again. This is a "Commonwealth of Opportunity." It is the result of Virginians from Reston to Roanoke to Richmond coming together across party lines to get results. It is a success story written by the people of Virginia.



"Working together – Republicans, Democrats and Independents alike – Virginia will continue to blaze the trail of opportunity and prosperity."

Governor Bob McDonnell



Inaugural Address of Governor Robert F. McDonnell

Richmond, Virginia

January 16, 2010

Thank you.

Mr. Speaker.

Lt. Governor Bolling.

Attorney General Cuccinelli.

Members of the General Assembly.

Distinguished guests from around the world and across the country, family and friends, my fellow Virginians.

Good afternoon!

We gather today on the steps of our magnificent and newly renovated State Capitol.

From this hill the land rolls gently down to the James River, the waterway of the Settlers in 1607.

From this place, the sweep of history has moved us forward to today.

This is the cradle of democracy for Virginia and America.

Governor Thomas Jefferson designed this Capitol building.

Governor Patrick Henry came here for the laying of its cornerstone.

I am humbled today to follow in their historic footsteps.

The General Assembly first convened in this new building during the first term of America's first President, Virginia's George Washington.

Behind me, in the Rotunda, are the busts of the eight Virginians who became President.

It was here that Robert E. Lee, the son of a Virginia Governor, was commissioned as Commander of the Commonwealth's military forces as a young nation split into war.

It was here, just four years later, that President Abraham Lincoln came to begin the process of reuniting our war-torn nation, walking the streets of still smoldering Richmond.

And it was here, 125 years after Lincoln's visit that a grandson of slaves, L. Douglas Wilder, took the Oath of Office as the nation's first African-American Governor.

And it is here, today, that an average middle class kid from Fairfax County, a grandson of Irish immigrants, is given the enormous honor of becoming the 71st Governor of Virginia.

As it turns out, I succeed another descendent of Irish immigrants, Governor Timothy Kaine.

On behalf of the grateful people of Virginia, I thank Governor Kaine for his leadership and service to our Commonwealth.

Today's Virginia is a thriving and diverse home of nearly 8 million people, with one in ten born outside the United States.

Inaugural Address of Governor Robert F. McDonnell



A state of rich history and strong people, we do face many challenges together.

We do not face the challenges of forming a new government or securing a young nation, as did Washington, Jefferson and Henry.

We do not encounter the devastation and destruction of Civil War, as did Lincoln and Lee.

We do not struggle with the injustice of slavery and its legacy of segregation as did Governor Wilder as a young man.

We do not march into bullets and artillery shells, as did the Greatest Generation on the beaches of Normandy and the islands of the Pacific. Two members of that generation, who served in World War II, my father Jack McDonnell and my father-in-law Frank Gardner, join us here today.

On behalf of a grateful Commonwealth I thank them, and all military members and veterans, for their incredible sacrifice and service to our nation that continues today.

The actions of those patriots that came before us had a common purpose to create and expand freedom and opportunity for the generations that came behind them.

The creation of, and desire for, new opportunity has shaped Virginia from its foundation.

It was in seeking the Opportunity of a New World that Captain John Smith and 104 settlers braved the perilous Atlantic to step onto the sands of Cape Henry in April 1607.

It was in securing the Opportunity of a New Nation that Virginia patriots joined together with their fellow colonists in the first fight for freedom and independence, and thus was born a country of ordered liberty that, 234 years later, is the beacon of hope for the world.

It was in seizing the Opportunity of equality and education that a courageous 16 year-old girl named Barbara Johns, memorialized behind this majestic Capitol at the Virginia Civil Rights Memorial, stood up and walked out of Moton High School in Farmville 59 years ago this spring.

New opportunity helped them meet the challenges of their time.

Greater opportunity will help us meet the challenges of ours.

Together we must create jobs and economic opportunities.

Provide new educational opportunities for all Virginians.

And enhance family and community opportunities by easing government burdens on free people.

As Virginians, we believe that government must help foster a society in which all our people can use their God-given talents in liberty to pursue the American Dream.

Where opportunity is absent, we must create it.
Where opportunity is limited, we must expand it.
Where opportunity is unequal, we must make it open to everyone.

Our Administration will be dedicated to building “A Commonwealth of Opportunity” for all Virginians.





Inaugural Address of Governor Robert F. McDonnell



It starts with restoring economic opportunity to Virginians in every corner of our Commonwealth.

Tens of thousands of our family members, friends and neighbors have lost their jobs.

Thousands more worry they could be next.

As we confront the worst economy in generations, the creation of new job opportunities for all our citizens is the obligation of our time, so all Virginians who seek a good job can find meaningful work and the dignity that comes with it.

Virginia has received high rankings over the years for being a business-friendly state.

Those rankings speak well of our past. They do not determine our future.

Competition for jobs is intense among the states, and between nations. States are aggressively positioning themselves to best appeal to job creators and entrepreneurs.

We must make this the best state in which to start and grow a small business.

It is why we will reduce burdensome taxation and regulation that impede job-creation.

And, it is why, even in these tough times, we will have the foresight to invest today in ideas and policies that increase economic prosperity tomorrow.

This economic crisis has touched every Virginian.

Declining home values and diminished retirement accounts have wiped away in just a few months the accumulated savings of many years.

As jobs are lost and consumer confidence remains low, state revenues have declined, and an historic budget shortfall has stretched into the billions. Thus, like so many households and businesses across the Commonwealth, state government needs to devise new ways to operate and find savings.

This austerity won't be easy, but it is necessary. The circumstances of our time demand that we reconsider and restore the proper role of government. Without reform the continued growth of government threatens our very prosperity.

Inaugural Address of Governor Robert F. McDonnell



We must properly fund the core priorities of government, but — equally important — we must utilize innovation, privatization, and consolidations to deliver government services more effectively.

And as we enact these reforms we must remember this: that government cannot guarantee individual outcomes, but equality of opportunity must be guaranteed for all.

All Virginians must have the same fundamental opportunities to work hard, live free and succeed.

Access to a quality education is the foundation of future opportunity. My Dad stressed to me as a child that to get a good job, you need a good education. It was true then and even more true today.

Virginians are blessed with many great schools with dedicated, professional teachers like my sister Nancy in Amherst, who work tirelessly to mold the minds and character of the next generation.

To compete in this global economy every young Virginian must have the opportunity of a world-class education from pre-school to college.

A child's future prospects should be as unlimited as his intelligence, integrity and work ethic can take him. No child in Virginia should have her future determined by her place of birth or zip code.

We will work with President Obama to expand high-quality charter schools and institute performance pay to our great teachers.

More money must go to the classroom and less into administration, and new opportunities in science, technology, engineering, math and healthcare must be created through our schools and colleges.

And let us recognize that a high school degree is no longer the finish line in a global economy. We must create affordable new pathways to earning a college degree and make a commitment to confer 100,000 additional degrees over the next 15 years. We must make our community colleges national leaders in workforce development and career training.

These are investments that will pay individual and societal dividends for many years to come.

Barbara Johns was willing to risk everything for the simple opportunity of a good education. Surely, sixty years later, we can work together to provide that opportunity to all Virginia children.

Our Administration will demand excellence, reward performance, provide choices and celebrate achievement.

God has bestowed upon our Commonwealth an amazing wealth of natural resources. Virginians have the intellectual capital to use these resources to create new jobs, reduce our energy bills, and make our nation more energy independent.

We will make Virginia the "Energy Capital of the East Coast." By growing the natural gas and coal industries, expanding the use of nuclear power, and promoting new energy technologies like wind, solar and biomass.

And we will champion environmentally-safe offshore energy exploration and production, bringing with it thousands of new jobs, hundreds of millions in new state revenue and billions in new investment.



Inaugural Address of Governor Robert F. McDonnell



We must also seize the opportunity to improve our transportation system by getting long overdue projects under way, and utilizing innovative ideas to build the roads, bridges, rail and ports we need.

A better transportation system will create new opportunities for Virginians across the state.

These are policies focused on addressing the real problems our people face, and delivering results.

I've had people tell me they fear that America may no longer be the land of opportunity it has always been, and that Virginia's history in

playing a leading role in the life of our nation may be just that, history. I say: They are wrong.

Working together — Republicans, Democrats and Independents alike — Virginia will continue to blaze the trail of opportunity and prosperity.

And like the mechanic looking to the owner's manual to troubleshoot the automobile, we should look to the Founders and their writings for wisdom.

The Founders capstone on the Constitution is the Bill of Rights. No federal mandate nor program crafted by either political party should undermine the central principle of federalism, enshrined in the birth certificate of America by those who pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor.

The Founders recognized that the government closest to the people governs best. More often than not, Richmond knows better about the hopes and dreams of the people than Washington. And Galax and Fairfax and Virginia Beach know far better than Richmond.

As we enthusiastically pursue the vision of "A Commonwealth of Opportunity", I ask all Virginians to continue to seek your own opportunities to get involved in the life of our Commonwealth.

Half a century ago President Kennedy challenged the American people to "ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country." Today, I ask all Virginians to rise up to meet this timeless challenge.

We live in the most generous nation on Earth. So many Virginians give sacrificially of their time, talents and treasure, and rightly so. The Scriptures say, "To whom much is given, much will be required."

Right now, much is required in the nation of Haiti. And I urge all Virginians to donate to the relief efforts under way.

Here in our Commonwealth, I urge business owners to look for opportunities to sponsor a little league team, help a charity, and promote corporate responsibility in the communities in which you live and work.

Inaugural Address of Governor Robert F. McDonnell



I urge all the leaders of our faith communities to expand your selfless work of helping the homeless, feeding the poor, and comforting the broken hearted.

I urge the young people of Virginia to use your talents and energy to fully engage in the future of this Commonwealth.

I urge Virginians who came here from other lands to contribute your culture, your history and your traditions to our rich tapestry of life.

I urge every Virginian to take every opportunity to thank a man or woman in a law enforcement or military uniform for the preservation of our freedoms.

There is so much each one of us can do to leave this Commonwealth a better place than we found it.

No government program can substitute for the incredible good done through voluntary actions performed freely by caring individuals every day.

And while government can help provide opportunities, it is every person's responsibility to take advantage of them.

In recent weeks I've seen people exercising that responsibility, and changing lives at:

The Healing Place in Richmond.

The Carpenter's Shelter in Alexandria.

Food Banks in Abingdon, Norfolk and Richmond.

The Boys and Girls Club in Virginia Beach.

The USO in Norfolk.

As a Commonwealth, we must do the same ... and we will.

Standing here today, on the steps of our State Capitol, in the inspiring shadows of the shared history behind us, we embrace the limitless future opportunities stretching out far before us.

And now it is here, in this place, that we pledge to work together to create "A Commonwealth of Opportunity" ... for all Virginians, and to add our steps to Virginia's journey.

It was George Washington who noted, in his first Inaugural Address, "The propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected to remain on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained."

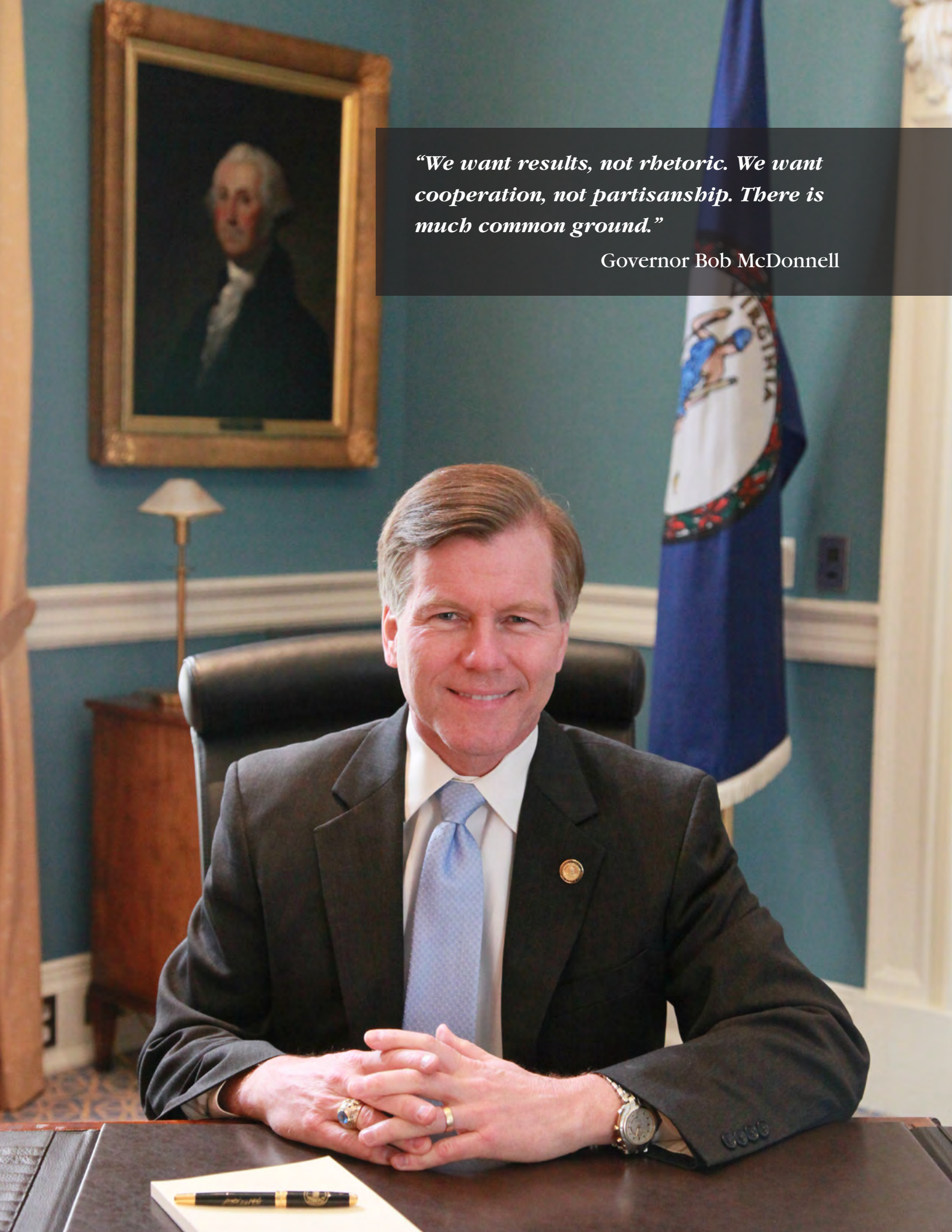
It is right to help one another.

It is right to work together to get results and solve problems.

It is right to provide opportunities for all.

Let us heed the words of the Father of our Country, employ these eternal rules of order and right, and get to work for the good of the people of Virginia.

Thank you and God Bless the Commonwealth of Virginia.

A photograph of Governor Bob McDonnell sitting at his desk in an office. He is wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a blue tie. His hands are clasped on the desk, and he is smiling at the camera. In the background, there is a framed portrait of an older man on the wall, a lamp, and the Virginia state flag. A dark semi-transparent box with white text is overlaid on the upper right portion of the image.

"We want results, not rhetoric. We want cooperation, not partisanship. There is much common ground."

Governor Bob McDonnell

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